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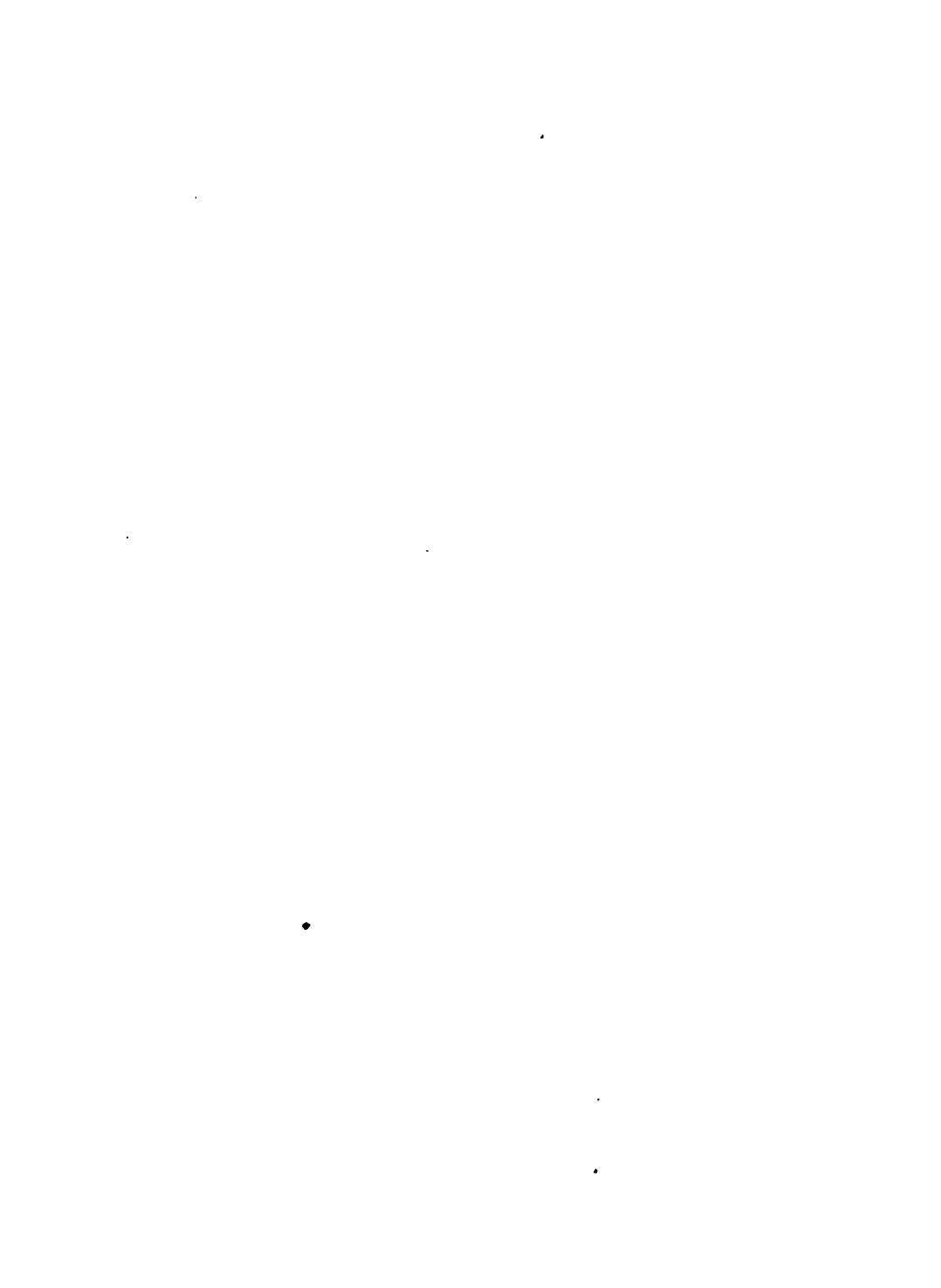




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# L I G H T D R I L L:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

FIELD EXERCISE AND EVOLUTIONS OF INFANTRY. 1859.

BY

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE earlier portion of the following pages has already appeared, nearly as it now stands, under the title of *The A B C of Skirmishing*.

In consequence of the considerable demand for that smaller work, and in compliance with suggestions from various quarters which he was unwilling to disregard, the Author has made the present attempt to compile a Manual of both Company and Battalion Light Drill, unincumbered with superfluity of detail, yet sufficiently comprehensive for all practical purposes.

Although, as regards its arrangement, this work differs not a little from the *Field Exercise*, the clear and explicit directions given in the latter for Light Infantry movements, have—so far as they go—been followed almost to the letter: in the few instances where the authority of the Book cannot be quoted, great care has been taken to lay down nothing at variance with its principles.

*August, 1860.*



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\* \* \* The Plates, with the exception of Nos. 1 and 7, are reduced from those in PART IV. of the *Field Exercise*.

## EXTRACT FROM THE CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM

DATED "HORSE GUARDS, 1ST MAY, 1860."

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"The improved range and accuracy of fire of the arms now in general use render it doubly important that every soldier should, when skirmishing, be prepared to take such advantage of ground and cover as will enable him, with the least exposure of his own person, to inflict the greatest amount of injury on his opponents.

"The attention of the skirmishers should be especially called to the following points:—

"Skirmishers, when under fire, must take advantage of all cover. The men of a file should always work together; both men should never be unloaded at the same time; they should always, when practicable, load under cover, before moving to the front when advancing, and after falling back when retiring.

"Young soldiers (particularly when first opening fire) are apt to waste their ammunition; its value, therefore, cannot be too carefully impressed on their minds, and they should be made to understand that the principal advantage of their rifle—viz., accuracy of fire, is lost if, in moving from spot to spot, they do not consider well the distance they are from the object they are about to fire at, and are not careful to adjust the back sight accordingly.

"The files must be careful not to get in front of each other. When small objects, such as trees or rocks, afford cover for a few files only, the men must not crowd behind them in numbers, as they will be safer in the open. Here they should load and fire lying, and move rapidly when the advance or retreat renders a change of position necessary, throwing themselves at once on the ground.

"Bugle sounds should be avoided as much as possible; the men should be practised at 'passing the word,' and made to understand signals.

"The men should be taught that good cover may be obtained from the slightest rise or fall of ground,—more especially when engaged at long ranges—a slight furrow, a few stones or small bushes, will often afford cover in the absence of trees, rocks, walls, banks, &c.

"Skirmishers should be taught to judge rapidly for themselves of the nature of the ground on which they are acting and of the best mode of occupying it. In defending a line of heights, the edge of a wood, or any ditches, walls, &c. they should follow the windings of the cover, instead of remaining in line, taking care to leave no considerable gaps, and not to collect in groups.

"A line of skirmishers may be exercised with advantage in passing obstacles, such as ponds, farm buildings, &c., the men opposite these obstacles doubling in rear of the files on the right and left; but running out to their proper places as soon as the obstacles are passed.

"Before quitting one position each file should decide on the next they intend to occupy, which they should make for in double time; when at close quarters one man of a file should cover the advance or retreat of his comrade while running from point to point, the men protecting each other in turn while exposed.

"The fire of skirmishers may often be better employed against the enemy's files on their right and left than against those in their immediate front, who are more likely to be completely covered.

"It is impossible for the officers to place each file of their companies; the men must be made to understand that they are responsible for the cover each file may select.

"They should keep in sight the files on their right and left, and, when the ground permits, should resume the general line of dressing, and their proper distance, making use of their own intelligence, without waiting for special directions.

"The dressing of a line of skirmishers is a matter of no importance, as long as the connexion between files is kept up. In advancing or retiring, those files having cover should remain in their position until those on their right and left have passed them by 15 or 20 paces. In advancing, files should run on to cover, when the general line is within 50 paces of it, holding it as above. The fire of one protected skirmisher is of more value than that of five when exposed.

\*     \*     \*     \*     \*

"By Command,

"J. YORKE SCARLETT,

"*Adjutant-General.*"

GENERAL PRINCIPLES  
OR  
SKIRMISHING.

---

SKIRMISHERS, SUPPORTS, AND RESERVES.

(1) *Skirmishers.*

THE movements of the Skirmishers must depend, in a great measure, on the position and movements of the Enemy : they should always, however, protect and over-lap the flanks of the main body they are intended to cover.

Skirmishers (whether halted or in motion) when under fire, should take advantage of all cover: taking care, when advancing or retiring, not to get in front of each other, or to retain their places of cover so long as to interfere with their own or their comrades' fire.

All lines of Skirmishers move by their *centre*: except when inclining to a flank (*see p. 21*), in which case they move by the flank to which they are inclining.

The distance between Skirmishers and Supports, on a plain, should be about 200 yards (= 240 paces). \*

Whenever Skirmishers are directed to HALT (whether by word of command or by bugle sound), they will halt and *kneel*, facing to their proper front.

N.B.—Men in extended order will invariably face (or turn) to the *right-about*; whether advancing, retiring, firing, or not firing.

---

\* A pace is five-sixths of a yard. To reduce yards to paces, therefore, multiply the number of yards by 6 and divide by 5: to reduce paces to yards, multiply the number of paces by 5 and divide by 6.

When one man of a file has to pass the other, he will invariably pass him by the proper left.

*General Rules for Skirmishers firing.*—The men of a file must always work together. Both men are never to be unloaded at the same time: when moving, the loaded man should always be nearest the Enemy. Men will always load, when practicable, under cover: loading, if *advancing*, before moving to the front; if *retiring*, after falling back.

When Skirmishers (either halted or on the march) are directed to **CEASE FIRING**, they will complete their loading; and the rear-rank men, if not already there, will resume their places in the proper rear of their respective front-rank men.

It should be recollected that **CEASE FIRING** is the only sound that annuls the FIRE.

## (2) *Supports.*

The Supports should always be composed of numbers equal to the line of Skirmishers: thus, each Company that is extended should have a Company to support it; and in the case of a single Company detached to skirmish, one Subdivision should skirmish while the other remains formed in support.

It is the duty of the Supports to assist and support the Skirmishers in every possible way: the movements of the former must therefore correspond with those of the latter.

Each Support should be in rear of the centre of its own Skirmishers.

Supports take ground to a flank by Sections: if moving diagonally to the front or rear, they move in echelon of Sections.

The distance between Supports and Reserves should be about 300 yards (= 360 paces).

Both Skirmishers and Supports move with trailed Arms: except

when in close Column of Sections (p. 29), or when marching in File ; on which occasions they will necessarily *advance* [or *shoulder*].

(3) *Reserves.*

The Reserve is the point on which both Supports and Skirmishers may rally : and should be at least one-third of the whole body. It will be placed as nearly as possible in rear of the centre of the formation, in order to send relief to the Supports and Skirmishers as occasion may require.

In the presence of Cavalry, the Reserve should be kept in Column ; but under the fire of Artillery, should be deployed into Line.

Reserves, when in Column, take ground to a flank by fours : if moving obliquely to front or rear, they move by the diagonal march [**RIGHT (OR LEFT) HALF TURN**].

The Reserve will be about 500 yards (= 600 paces) from the main body.

Reserves move with sloped [or trailed] Arms.

---

Light Infantry movements will usually be performed in Quick time ; but extensions, or closings, *on the march* ; the formation of Company-Squares from extended order, and Rallying-Squares ; and changes of front from the halt ; will be in Double time. The men may at any time, if necessary, be directed to double, either by word of command or bugle sound.

**OFFICERS.**

1. When a Company is *extended*, the Captain will be in rear of the centre : the Lieutenant, in rear of the right : the Ensign, in rear of the left.

[The Lieutenant of a flank Company will always be in rear of its outer flank, whether that flank is the right or left : the Ensign, in rear of the inner flank.]

Commands must be repeated by the Captain and every Supernumerary belonging to the line of Skirmishers.

2. When a Company is in *support*, the Captain will invariably be in its proper front; thus leading the Company when it advances, following it when it retires. The Lieutenant and Ensign will be in the proper rear.

The Officer commanding a Support should—with due regard to the assistance he should afford the Skirmishers—take advantage of all inequalities of ground, &c. to get his men under cover. The best positions to select are those which will protect the men if attacked by Cavalry, without preventing the Skirmishers forming on them.

3. The Officers of a *Reserve* will always be placed as in Column, *right* in front: i.e., the Captains on the left of the front rank, the Lieutenants one pace in rear of the 2nd file from the right, the Ensigns one pace in rear of the centre, of their respective Companies.

The Officer commanding the Reserve—while availing himself of cover when practicable, and not neglecting the protection of the main body—should chiefly direct his attention to the selection of positions favourable to the relief and assistance of the Skirmishers and Supports.

N.B. Supports and Reserves, if not under cover, should always lie down when halted.

[*Connecting Links*.—A non-commissioned Officer (or more, if required) may be sent out from a Support, to keep up the connexion with its Skirmishers: and similar connecting links may be sent out from the Reserve, to keep up the connexion between it and the Supports. These men may be employed, when necessary, to pass words of command, &c.: when so employed, and the voice (owing to noise or wind) cannot be heard, they will run up and deliver their orders, and then resume their places.]

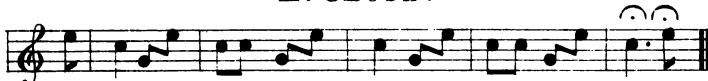


## BUGLE SOUNDS.

### I. EXTEND.



### II. CLOSE.



### III. ADVANCE.



### IV. HALT.

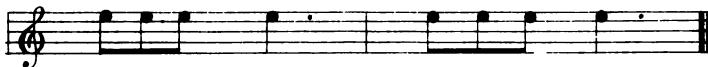


The *Halt* annuls all previous Sounds except the *Fire*.

### V. COMMENCE FIRING.



### VI. CEASE FIRING.



### VII. RETIRE.



### VIII. ASSEMBLY.

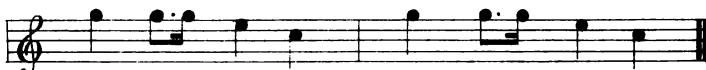


*This Sound will be used to turn out troops in cases of alarm by day or night; and for no other purpose.*

## IX. INCLINE.



## X. WHEEL.



The calls IX and X must be preceded by one G or three G's

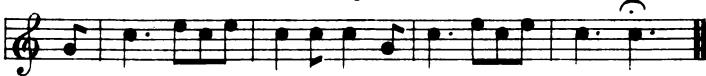
## XI. THE ALARM, OR LOOK OUT FOR CAVALRY.



## XII. THE OFFICERS' CALL.

Musical notation for Call XII, The Officers' Call, featuring a treble clef, common time, and two measures. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes.

## XIII. THE QUICK TIME.



## XIV. THE DOUBLE TIME.





## BUGLE SOUNDS.

The names and numbers of the Bugle sounds used in Light Drill are as follows :—

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. EXTEND.</li> <li>II. CLOSE.</li> <li>III. ADVANCE.</li> <li>IV. HALT.</li> <li>V. COMMENCE FIRING.</li> <li>VI. CEASE FIRING.</li> <li>VII. RETIRE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IX. INCLINE.</li> <li>X. WHEEL.</li> <li>XI. THE ALARM, or LOOK OUT FOR CAVALRY.</li> <li>XIII. THE QUICK TIME.</li> <li>XIV. THE DOUBLE TIME.</li> </ul>
--	--

The note G sounded once, twice, or thrice, before the EXTEND or CLOSE, will denote the part of the line to which the Sound applies ; sounded once or thrice before the INCLINE or WHEEL, will indicate the intended direction : one G signifying *right*, two G's *centre*, three G's *left*. *E.g.* Two G's sounded before the EXTEND will signify to extend from the centre : one G followed by the CLOSE, to close to the right ; three G's followed by the WHEEL, to wheel to the left.

N.B.—The HALT annuls all previous sounds except the FIRE. When the FIRE is combined with any other call, it should always be the last of the two.

In certain cases, Sounds (other than the FIRE and distinguishing G) are used in combination : *viz.*—

1. CLOSE+ALARM. *See pp. 27, 46.*
2. CLOSE+ALARM+ALARM. *See pp. 27, 46.*
3. CLOSE+RETIRE. *See pp. 42, 48.*
4. ALARM+DOUBLE. *See p. 50.*

Bugle sounds do not apply to bodies of troops in reserve.

When moving by sound of bugle, men will wait till the bugle has ceased before they move.

## PART I.—COMPANY LIGHT DRILL.

---

The Company will fall in in two ranks at close order, with ordered Arms and unfixed bayonets; the files lightly touching: and, having been numbered from right to left, will be told off into 2 Subdivisions and 4 Sections. The left file of the right Sub-division will always be considered the centre of the Company.

\* \* \* The directions in brackets [ ] to *shoulder Arms* and *fix swords*, apply to the short Rifle.

### SECTION I.—EXTENDING.

(F. E., pp. 213—215.)

[The number of paces that the files are to extend from each other may be specified in the Drill Instructor's *caution*, thus: THREE PACES, FROM THE RIGHT—EXTEND. When no number of paces is specified, 6 paces will be the distance between files. The rear-rank man of each file is responsible for distance: the front-rank man for direction.]

#### (1) *Extending from the Halt.*

~~FROM THE~~ *On the word (or Sound) EXTEND—*

~~RIGHT (LEFT,~~ *CENTRE, or*  
~~NO. — FILE)~~ *The Officers fall to the rear. See page 11.*

~~EXTEND.~~ *The file on the named flank (or the centre- or named file) kneels down: the remainder advance [or shoulder] Arms, face outwards, and extend in Quick time.*

*The front-rank men move direct to the flank to which they have faced, covering correctly on the march. The rear-rank men will cast their eyes over the inward shoulder; and each, as he gains the proper distance,*

will tap his front-rank man on the shoulder as a signal, upon which both men will halt, front, and kneel.

[Men must be taught to extend from any file of a close Column of Sections (*see* p. 29), without previously re-forming Company : the named file will kneel ; and the remainder, having faced outwards, will extend as above directed.]

### (2) *Extending on the March.*

*On the word (or Sound) EXTEND—*

The file from which the extension is to be made continues to move straight forward in Quick time.

The remainder will make a *half* turn outwards, and move off in Double time : each file turning to its front and resuming the Quick time, when it has gained the required distance ; the rear-rank men covering their front-rank men ; and the whole keeping in line with the directing (centre) file.

N.B.—If the Company is ordered to HALT before all the files are extended : the remainder will make a second *half* turn outwards (which will bring them into file), break into Quick time, advance [or shoulder] Arms, and complete their extension as from the Halt.

Men in extended order may be directed to increase the distance between their files any given number of paces ; from either flank, the centre, or any named file. If the extension is ordered by bugle sound, or if no number of paces is specified in the word of command, the Skirmishers will open out *one-half* more than their original extension ; *e.g.*, if they are at 6 paces distance, they will open to 9 paces. [The extension, unless it is otherwise directed, will be from the same file as before.]

## SECTION II.—CLOSING.

(F. E., p. 215.)

(1) *Closing at the Halt.*

**ON THE  
RIGHT (LEFT,  
CENTRE, or  
No. — FILE):** *On the word (or Sound) CLOSE—  
CLOSE.* The file on the named flank (or the centre- or named file) will rise, order Arms, and stand at ease.

**CALL II.**

The remainder will rise, face towards the file on which the closing is to be made, and close in Quick time; each file in succession halting, fronting, ordering Arms, and standing at ease, as it gets to its place.

The *Officers* will remain in rear, unless directed to take post as in Company.

[The file on which the Skirmishers close may be faced in any direction: the remainder forming upon it accordingly.]

(2) *Closing on the March.**On the word (or Sound) CLOSE—*

The file on which the closing is to be made will move steadily on in Quick time: the remainder making a *half* turn towards it; closing in Double time; and turning to the front and resuming the Quick time, as they get to their places.

**N.B.—If** the Company is ordered to HALT before all the files are closed: the remainder will make a second *half* turn inwards (which will bring them into file), break into Quick time, and complete the closing as from the Halt.

**SECTION III.—FIRING IN SKIRMISHING  
ORDER, AT THE HALT.**

(F. E., p. 220.)

**COMMENCE FIRING.** *On the word (or Sound) COMMENCE FIRING—*

**CALL V.** The front-rank men will make ready, fire, and re-load : the rear-rank men, when their respective front-rank men are in the act of capping, will make ready, fire, and re-load. *See page 10.*

---

A line of Skirmishers may be ordered to *lie down*, or single soldiers may lie down for the sake of cover : when firing in this position, both elbows must rest on the ground to support the body and rifle. The men will load on their knees : except in very exposed situations, when they may (if they prefer it) roll over on their backs, placing the butt of the rifle between the legs, lock upwards, and muzzle slightly elevated.

[Riflemen may, in favourable situations, fire lying on their backs : the feet being crossed and the right foot passed through the sling of the rifle to support it.]

N.B.—When a line of Skirmishers halted is ordered to **ADVANCE (or RETIRE) AND FIRE**, the front-rank men will first fire : the whole will then rise, and proceed as explained in the two following *Sections*.

**SECTION IV.—ADVANCING IN SKIRMISHING ORDER, AND FIRING.**

(F. E., pp. 217, 220.)

**COMPANY: ADVANCE.** *On the word (or Sound) ADVANCE—*

**CALL III.** The men will rise, and step off in Quick time.

---

**COMMENCE FIRING.** *On the word (or Sound) COMMENCE FIRING—*

**CALL V.** The whole of the Skirmishers will make a momentary halt; the front-rank man of each file will then fire (kneeling, if he prefers it), and take a side-pace to his left. The rear-rank man will then pass on, the front-rank man following close in rear of him, loading on the march. When in the act of capping, the front-rank man will give the word "*Ready*" in an under tone of voice; on which the proper rear-rank man will fire. Both men will then proceed, alternately, as above described.

The loaded man in front is responsible for distance and dressing.

[When men find difficulty in loading on the march, they may *halt* and load, and then double up to their file leaders.]

The men must take advantage of any cover that may offer, running from one place to another as soon as they are loaded. When any considerable place of cover presents itself, several files may run up to it, fire and load, and then regain their distances and places in the general line of Skirmishers.

---

**T Passing Obstacles in Skirmishing order.**

When an obstacle (such as a pond or marsh) presents itself in front of a line of Skirmishers, the files opposite to it will open out gradually as they approach, and will pass on either side of it; closing upon the remaining files, which will continue moving straight to their front. Having passed the obstacle, the files that have been diverted from their direction by it, will again extend, and fill up the interval in the line.

A Company advancing, or retiring, in skirmishing order should also be practised in closing on *the centre files of Subdivisions or Sections*; those files continuing to march straight to their front: after which, the Company will be again extended from the same files, when the distances between the files ought to be found correct.

**SECTION V.—RETIRING IN SKIRMISHING  
ORDER, AND FIRING.**

(F. E., pp. 217, 221.)

**COMPANY :  
RETIRE.** *On the word (or Sound) RETIRE—*

**CALL VII.** The men will rise, face to the right-about, and step off (in Quick time) rear rank in front.

---

**- COMMENCE FIRING.** *On the word (or Sound) COMMENCE FIRING—*

**CALL V.** Both ranks will halt and front. The front-rank man of each file will then fire, face to the right-about, and retire in Quick time ; passing by the *left* of his rear-rank man, and loading as he retires. The rear-rank man of each file will follow close in rear of his front-rank man. As soon as the front-rank man's loading is completed, both men will halt and front ; and the rear-rank man will give his fire, and proceed as above described for the front-rank man.

[On rough ground, files will run back from one place of cover to another, selecting new cover before leaving the last : one man of each file should fire previous to moving, and re-load when again under cover.]

**SECTION VI.—INCLINING TO A FLANK,  
AND FIRING.**

(F. E., pp. 218, 222.)

**TO THE  
RIGHT (or  
LEFT):  
INCLINE.**

**CALL IX:**  
*proceeded by  
one G.,  
or three G's.*

*On the word (or Sound) INCLINE—*

The Skirmishers will make a *half turn* to the ordered flank, and will move in a diagonal direction, till they are ordered to resume their original direction to the front [or rear] by the word (or Sound) ADVANCE [or RETIRE].

The leading file is the directing file: *see page 9.*

If the Skirmishers have made a half turn, and are again ordered to incline in the same direction; or if the bugle sounds the INCLINE a second time; they will make a second half turn (thus completing the *turn*), and will take ground to the flank in file.

---

**COMMENCE  
FIRING.**

**CALL V.**

*On the word (or Sound) COMMENCE FIRING—*

The front-rank men will halt and front, take steady aim, and fire: the rear-rank men moving on. Having fired, the front-rank men will double up to the proper rear of their respective rear-rank men, and will then load on the march [or, they may load at the halt, and *then* double up].

The rear-rank men, when the front-rank men's loading is completed, will proceed in like manner.

The loaded men are responsible for distance and dressing.

\* \* \* The above directions are equally applicable to firing while *inclinining to a flank*, and while *taking ground to a flank in file*.

The **ADVANCE**, or the **RETIRE**, sounded when men are inclining to a flank, will indicate that the original direction is to be resumed.

If the **HALT** sounds, the men halt, *front*, and *kneel*.

**SECTION VII.--SKIRMISHERS CHANGING  
FRONT, OR DIRECTION.**

(F. E., p. 218.)

[A line of Skirmishers halted, may change front on any two named files placed as a base for the rest to form upon. The change of front may be made at any angle; but it is not likely to be required to a greater extent than the sixteenth, or (at most) the eighth, of a circle. See page 35.]

(1) *From the Halt.*

CHANGE  
FRONT TO THE  
RIGHT (or  
LEFT) ON  
THE TWO  
CENTRE [or  
ON No. — AND  
No. —] FILES.

*On the Caution—*

The two named files will rise, and the Captain will dress them in the required direction: the files, when placed, will again kneel.

DOUBLE  
MARCH.

*On the word MARCH—*

The whole will rise.

(a) If all the files are to be thrown *forward* on a flank, they will make a half face inwards, and move across (by the shortest way) to their places in the new line: dressing on the two base files, as they successively halt; and then kneeling.

(b) If all the files are to be thrown *back* on either flank, they will make a three-quarters face in the direction of the base files: and will then move across, and (in succession) halt, front, and kneel, as they get to their places in the new line.

(c) If the change of front is on two central files,

part of the Company will be thrown forward, as in (*a*) : the remainder will be thrown back, as in (*b*).

[Recruits should first be taught this movement in *Quick* time, and by separate words of command. Thus, supposing the change of front is to be to the right, on two central files:—the Instructor, after placing the base files, will give RISE. LEFT SUBDIVISION, RIGHT HALF FACE: RIGHT SUBDIVISION, LEFT-ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS FACE. THE WHOLE: q. MARCH.]

### (2) *On the March.*

[A line of Skirmishers on the march may change their direction gradually, on the same principle as a Company wheeling on a moveable pivot: see *Field Ex.*, p. 30.]

**SKIRMISHERS:** *On the word (or Sound) WHEEL—*  
RIGHT (or  
LEFT) WHEEL.

—  
**CALL X:**  
preceded by one  
G, or three G's.  
FORWARD.  
or  
CALL III or VII.

The pivot file will halt: and the remainder will circle round it; the front-rank men looking outwards for the dressing, and the rear-rank men keeping the distances from the pivot flank.

*On the word FORWARD (or Sound III. or VII.)—*

The whole line will advance (by the centre) in the new direction.

N.B.—When Skirmishers wheel while *retiring*, the proper rear-rank men are responsible for dressing, proper front-rank men for distance.

## SECTION VIII.—RELIEVING SKIRMISHERS.

 The Movements described in this and the following Section are intended to be practised by a Company formed into Subdivisions, one of which will skirmish while the other acts as a Support. See (2) page 10.

### (1) *Relieving halted Skirmishers.*

**RELIEVE SKIRMISHERS.** The Support will extend in rear, out of immediate reach of fire; and will then run up to the line of Skirmishers. [Commander's words: *From the Centre—Extend*: (when extended)—*Advance. Double.*]

The old Skirmishers, on being relieved, will run straight to their rear; and when out of immediate reach of fire, the Commander will give *On the Centre—Close.* The † centre file then halts and fronts; the remainder turn inwards into file, and close in the usual manner: the old Skirmishers thus becoming the new Support. [Should the ADVANCE be sounded while the old Skirmishers are in the act of being relieved, they will remain in the line, lying down, till the new Skirmishers have gained sufficient distance to their front: and will then rise and close.]

### (2) *Relieving Skirmishers that are advancing.*

The Support will extend on the march; and the men will then double up to the old Skirmishers, changing into Quick time as they pass through them. [Commander's words: *From the Centre—Extend*: (when extended)—*Double.*]

---

† The centre file of a Subdivision is the inner file of its outer Section.

The old Skirmishers, as the new pass through them, lie down and wait till the latter are sufficiently advanced to protect them from immediate fire; they will then rise, close as in (1), and form the Support.

(3) *Relieving Skirmishers that are retiring.*

The Support will halt and front, at a considerable distance in rear; and will then extend, by word of its Commander: each man (if possible) getting under cover.

When the old Skirmishers arrive within 20 or 30 paces of the new, they will run through them to the rear, till out of immediate reach of fire; they will then be ordered to close on the centre, as in (1), and will form the Support.

*See PART II., SEC. III.*

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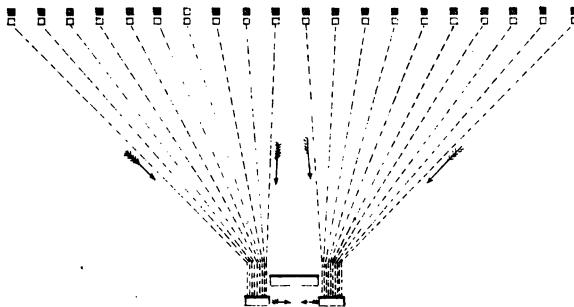
For *Reinforcing Skirmishers*: see p. 44.



*Fig. 1.*

SKIRMISHERS CLOSING ON THEIR SUPPORT.

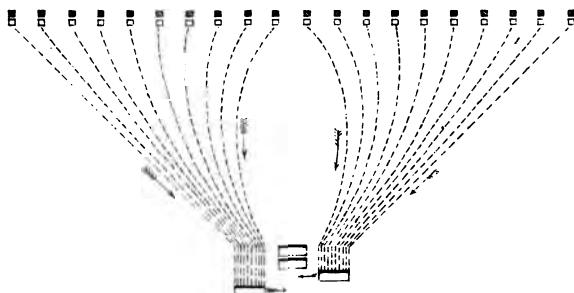
[*The Close.*]



*Fig. 2.*

CLOSING ON SUPPORT IN PRESENCE OF CAVALRY.

[*The Close and Alarm.*]



## SECTION IX.—SKIRMISHERS CLOSING ON THEIR SUPPORT.

*(1) The Close.*

**CLOSE ON  
SUPPORT.  
CALL II.**

The Skirmishers rise, face to the right-about, and retire : the inner files of Sections moving at Quick time, and opening out, as they move to the rear, so as to clear the front of the Support ; the remainder closing on those files, in the usual manner, as they retire.

When at Section distance in rear of the Support, the Sections will turn inwards, advancing [or shouldering] Arms as they turn : and as they meet (in rear of the centre of the Support), will halt and front, order Arms, and stand at ease, without any word of command.

*(2) † The Close and Alarm.*

**CLOSE,  
LOOK OUT FOR  
CAVALRY.  
CALL II:  
*followed by*  
†CALL XI.**

The Support will be ordered to advance, and form Sections on the march (*see Note*) : and the Skirmishers will move to the rear at the double ; closing on the inner files of Sections as in (1), except that the centre files will incline outwards, in order to clear the front of the Support, as they *commence* retiring.

As the Skirmishers approach the Support, the latter will be halted ; its rear Section closing on its leading

† If the Skirmishers are supposed to be closely pressed by Cavalry and unable to reach their Support, the ALARM will be repeated, and both they and the Support—since each consists only of a *Subdivision*—will form Rallying Square. When entire Companies are skirmishing, the Skirmishers and Supports form Company Squares : *see page 46.*

Section, and both Sections fixing bayonets [or swords] as they come to the halt.

The Skirmishers then turn inwards (*see Note*), so as to form close Column of Sections with the Support : fixing bayonets [or swords] as they halt and front.

The Column will then be ordered, by the senior Officer, to prepare for Cavalry. *See APPENDIX (3).*

*Note.*—When the Subdivision—*whether it is the Right or Left*—acting as the Support, forms Sections on the march, the Section on the *left* will invariably double in rear of the other. In like manner, the Section that was on the left while skirmishing, will move into Column in rear of the Section that was on the right : those Sections thus passing each other, according to the general rule, left arm to left arm.

---

When the **EXTEND** sounds, the old Support will be ordered by its Commander to *advance* and *extend* from the centre, thus becoming the new Skirmishers ; the old Skirmishers will be directed to form Subdivision in support. Or the old Support may extend *from the halt* on its own ground ; the old Skirmishers re-forming Subdivision, and retiring to their proper distance as the Support.

See *Field Exercise*, pp. 234–236.

**SECTION X.—COMPANY AND RALLYING  
SQUARES.**

(F. E., p. 216.)

**(A) COMPANY SQUARE.**

*From close order.*

[In forming from *close* order (*i.e.* when not extended), the men will move into Column with advanced [or shoulderered] Arms: the Section of formation (No. 2) fixing bayonets [or swords] at the word **MARCH**; the remainder, as they halt and front in column.]

**FORM CLOSE  
COLUMN OF  
SECTIONS.**

**Q. MARCH.**

**(1) On the word SECTIONS—**

The 1st Section faces to the left, and disengages to the front (by the leading file closing 2 paces outwards, the front-rank man inclining rather back): the 3rd and 4th Sections face to the right, and disengage (in like manner) to the rear.

The *Captain* moves out to the front: the *supernumerary Officers* stand fast.

**(2) On the word MARCH—**

Close Column is formed on the 2nd Section: the men halting and fronting, as they arrive in Column, without word of command. The distance between the Sections will be one pace.

The *Captain* will fall in on the left of the front rank of the leading Section: the *Lieutenant* and *Ensign*, on the left of the 3rd and 4th Sections respectively.

[The men should count the steps they have to take in getting into Column: so that, in re-forming Company, the men of the 1st Section may turn to the rear; those of the 3rd and 4th Sections, to the front; together.]

*From extended order.*

**FORM CLOSE COLUMN OF SECTIONS.** The men will order Arms and fix bayonets [or swords], independently, as they halt and front in their places in Column.

**CALL XI.** [A Company must be practised in closing from extended order into close Column of Sections, *on any named file*: when no file is named, the men will close on the left file of the 2nd Section. If much pressed by Cavalry, the first Section formed may commence firing; and the remainder may form in rear of it, the Sections passing each other left arm to left arm.]

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*2. Resisting Cavalry.*

**+PREPARE FOR CAVALRY.** *On the word CAVALRY—*

**+READY.** The Officers and N.C. officers move into the centre of the Column: the men will then face outwards, so as to show a front of equal strength in every direction.

*On the word READY—*

If the sides of the Square are two- or three-deep, the front rank only, will kneel: if four-deep, the 2 front ranks will kneel. The remainder come to the 'Ready.'

For firing words, which will be given (on a caution from the Drill Instructor) by the senior Officer in the Square, *see APPENDIX (3)*.

*3. Re-forming Company.*

**+RE-FORM COLUMN.** *On the word COLUMN—*

**-RE-FORM COMPANY.** The men will face to their proper front in Column, and will touch into the pivot flanks. The Officers move out to their places on the flanks of Sections.

**Q. MARCH.**

*On the word COMPANY—*

Nos. 1, 3, and 4 Sections face outwards, and

*On the word MARCH—*

Move out: the 1st Section, when clear, turning to the rear, the 3rd and 4th Sections (in succession) to the front. Each of the three Sections will form up in line with the 2nd Section without word of command: the Officers falling into their proper places.

Bayonets [or Swords] will be unfixed by word of command.

**(B) THE RALLYING SQUARE.**

[In Battalion skirmishing, this Square is used when men of different Companies mixed together in extended order, or detached Skirmishers, are overtaken by Cavalry. See page 50.]

**FORM RALLY-  
ING SQUARE.** *On the word SQUARE—*

~~CALL XI:~~ The men will double up to the Officer \* nearest followed by them: fixing bayonets [or swords], and ordering Arms, ~~CALL XIV.~~ as they reach him.

The 2 first men who come up to the Officer will form on his right and left, facing outwards: the 3 next in front: the 3 next in rear, facing to the rear.

The next 4 men place themselves one at each angle of the Square thus formed: and others, as they come up, complete the face between those angles.

After each completion of the faces of the Square, the 4 next men place themselves one at each angle: others completing the faces as before.

\* When two or more Officers are placed (by the Drill Instructor) as points for the Skirmishers to form on, they should be placed in echelon with each other, so that the fire of no face of either Square may be masked. See page 51.

## 2. Resisting Cavalry.

**†PREPARE FOR CAVALRY.** *On the word READY—*

**READY.** As in (A). For firing words, which will be given (on a caution from the Drill Instructor) by the Officer on whom each Square is formed, *see APPENDIX (3).*

## 3. Re-forming.

**REDUCE THE SQUARE.** *On the word SQUARE—*

The Officer(s) will give *Re-form Company (Subdivision, or Section).*

The Covering-serjeant (or the senior non-commissioned officer of the Subdivision or Section) will mark the pivot flank, facing the supposed enemy: and the men will form upon him.

Bayonets [or Swords] will be unfixed by word of command.

Dispersed parties may be formed as above, in one or more Squares (each Square consisting of any number of men) according as they may be more or less dispersed. Every man will run to the rallying point nearest him.

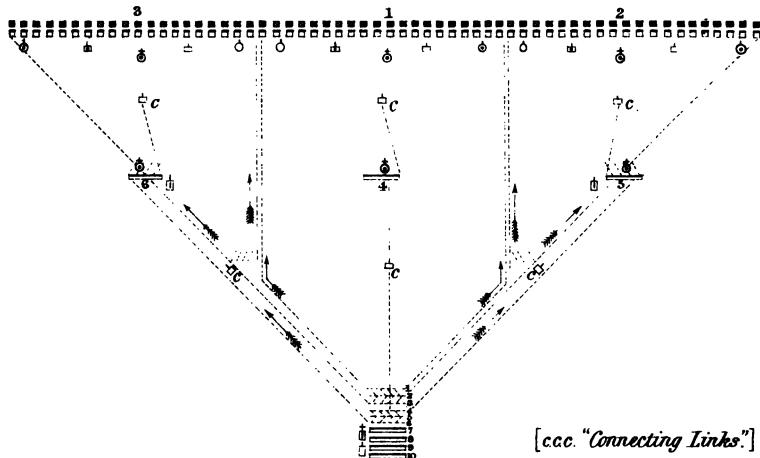
## ¶ To move a Square.

The Drill Instructor will give the caution **THE SQUARE WILL ADVANCE (RETIRE, or MOVE TO THE RIGHT OR LEFT)**, followed by the commands **INWARDS FACE. QUICK MARCH.** When the Square is ordered to **HALT**, the men halt and face outwards.

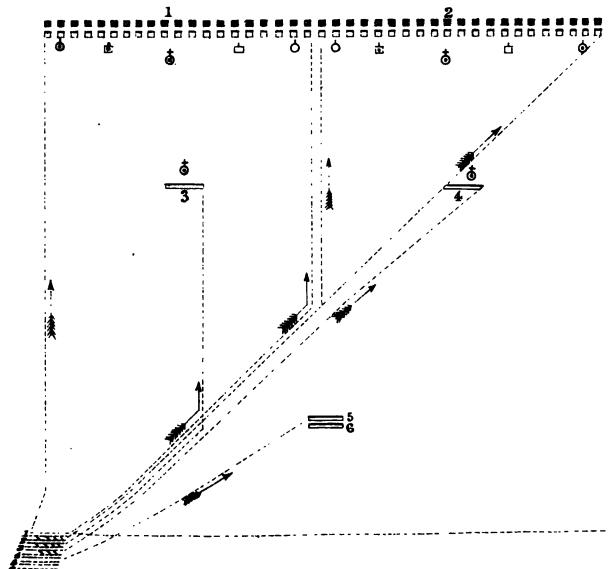
\* \* \* The marginal words of command that in this *Section* are marked thus †, as well as the firing words, are, in Battalion Light Drill, given to each Square by its own Commander.



**Fig. I.**  
A BATTALION OF TEN COMPANIES EXTENDED IN SKIRMISHING ORDER FROM QUARTER-DISTANCE COLUMN.



**Fig. II.**  
A BATTALION OF SIX COMPANIES EXTENDING FROM THE LEFT  
FROM QUARTER-DISTANCE COLUMN.



## PART II.—BATTALION LIGHT DRILL.

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### SECTION I.—A BATTALION EXTENDING IN SKIRMISHING ORDER FROM QUARTER-DISTANCE COLUMN.

(F. E., p. 224.)

#### (1) *Extending in the usual manner.*

[Both Skirmishers and Supports will be moved out from the Column in *quick* time; except the flank Skirmishers when *three* Companies are ordered to extend, which will be moved out in *double* time.]

THE  
BATTALION  
WILL  
SKIRMISH.  
THREE COM-  
PANIES,  
EXTEND.

#### (a) A Battalion of 10 Companies.

(Suppose Right in front.)

The following commands will be given to the Companies that are to form the Skirmishers and Supports:—

By the Captain of No. 1. (Centre Skirmishers.)	By the Captain of No. 2. (Right Skirmishers.)	By the Captain of No. 3. (Left Skirmishers.)
<i>No. 1: Quick March. From the Centre— Extend.</i>	<i>No. 2: Double March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); and when clear of the Centre Skirmish- ers, From the Left — Extend.</i>	<i>No. 3: Double March. By Sections, Left wheel. — Forward (in echelon); and when clear of the Centre Skirmish- ers, From the Right — Extend.</i>

By the Captain of No. 4. (Centre Support.)	By the Captain of No. 5. (Right Support.)	By the Captain of No. 6. (Left Support.)
<b>No. 4 : Quick March.</b>	<b>No. 5 : Quick March.</b> <i>By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); and when in rear of the centre of the Right Skirmishers, Re-form Company.—Forward.</i>	<b>No. 6 : Quick March.</b> <i>By Sections, Left wheel. — Forward (in echelon); and when in rear of the centre of the Left Skirmishers, Re-form Company.—Forward.</i>

Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10 Companies will form the Reserve.

[When *Left* is in front, the Skirmishers and Supports will move out in similar order : No. 10 forming the centre, No. 9 the right, No. 8 the left, Skirmishers; No. 7 the centre, No. 6 the right, No. 5 the left, Support ; the remainder forming the Reserve.]

THE  
BATTALION  
WILL  
SKIRMISH.  
TWO  
COMPANIES,  
EXTEND.

**(b) A Battalion of 8 or 6 Companies.**

(Suppose Right in front.)

The following commands will be given :—

By the Captain of No. 1. (Right Skirmishers.)	By the Captain of No. 2. (Left Skirmishers.)
<b>No. 1 : Quick March.</b> <i>From the Left—Extend.</i>	<b>No. 2 : Quick March.</b> <i>From the Right—Extend.</i> [The whole will make a half turn to the left, and move on — in double time, but without extending — till clear of the left of No. 1; then extend as usual.]

By the Captain of No. 3. (Right Support.)	By the Captain of No. 4. (Left Support.)
Same word as Captain of Right Support in (a).	Same word as Captain of Left Support in (a).

In an eight-company Battalion, Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8; in a six-company Battalion, Nos. 5 and 6; will form the Reserve.

[If *Left* is in front, the Companies that are to form the Skirmishers and Supports will move out in similar order; thus:—From an eight-company Battalion, Nos. 8, 7, 6, 5: from a six-company Battalion, Nos. 6, 5, 4, 3.]

It may occasionally be necessary to order an eight-company Battalion to send out *three* Companies to skirmish; in which case 2 Companies, only, will form the Reserve.

For directions for Skirmishers *extending, advancing and retiring, inclining to a flank, and changing front*: see pp. 14, 18–24. [Skirmishers should never be required to change front *at right angles*: if it is necessary to protect a flank, fresh Skirmishers will be sent out either from the Supports, Reserve, or main body, as circumstances may require.]

For directions for Supports and Reserve: see p. 10.

#### (2) † *Extending to a Flank.*

[When a Battalion of 10 Companies extends from the *left*, whether the Column is Right or Left in front: The leading Company will form the left, the 2nd Company the centre, the 3rd Company the right, Skirmishers; the 4th Company forming the left, the 5th the centre, the 6th the right, Support. Simi-

† To cover a Brigade or Division.

larly, in extending from the *right*: The leading Company will form the right, the 2nd the centre, the 3rd the left, Skirmishers; the 3 next Companies forming the right, centre, and left, Supports. A Battalion of 8 or 6 Companies will extend in either direction on precisely the same principle. *See Plate, Fig. 2.*]

Suppose a Battalion of 10 Companies, Right in front, extending from the *left*.

**THE  
BATTALION  
WILL  
SKIRMISH.  
THREE  
LEADING  
COMPANIES,  
FROM THE  
LEFT EXTEND.**

The following commands will be given to the Companies that are to form the Skirmishers and Supports:—

	By the Captain of No. 1. (Left Skirmishers.)	By the Captain of No. 2. (Centre Skirmishers.)	By the Captain of No. 3. (Right Skirmishers.)
	<i>No. 1 : Quick March. From the Left—Extend.</i>	<i>No. 2: Double March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); when clear of the Left Skirmishers, From the Left— Extend.</i>	<i>No. 3: Double March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); when clear of the Centre Skirmishers, From the Left—Extend.</i>
	By the Captain of No. 4. (Left Support.)	By the Captain of No. 5. (Centre Support.)	By the Captain of No. 6. (Right Support.)
	<i>No. 4 : Quick March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); when in rear of the centre of Left Skirmishers, Re-form Company.—Forward.</i>	<i>No. 5 : Quick March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); when in rear of the centre of Centre Skirmi- shers, Re-form Com- pany.—Forward.</i>	<i>No. 6 : Quick March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); when in rear of the centre of Right Skirmish- ers, Re-form Com- pany.—Forward.</i>

[When it is more convenient, the outward Supports and Skirmishers may move out in *fours*.]

Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10, (forming the Reserve) will take ground, by fours, to the right.

(3) *Extending with half the Companies Skirmishing,  
half in Support.*

THE  
BATTALION  
WILL  
EXTEND: FIVE  
COMPANIES  
SKIRMISHING.

(a) Extending from the Centre.

(Suppose 10 Companies.)

The leading Company will extend from its centre, the 2nd Company will extend on the right of the leading Company, the 3rd on its left; the 4th Company will extend on the extreme right, the 5th on the extreme left.

The Companies of the rear Wing will form Supports for the corresponding Companies of the leading Wing.

[A Battalion of 8 or 6 Companies will extend in a similar manner. When the number of Companies to be extended is even, the leading Company will extend from its left, the 2nd Company from its right.]

THE  
BATTALION  
WILL  
SKIRMISH.  
COMPANIES  
OF THE  
LEADING  
WING: FROM  
THE LEFT  
(or RIGHT)  
EXTEND.

(b) Extending from a Flank.

The Companies of the leading Wing will skirmish : the front Company advancing, and extending from the named flank ; the remainder, in succession, extending the line of Skirmishers on the outward flank.

The Companies of the rear Wing will form Supports for the corresponding Companies of the leading Wing, as in (a).

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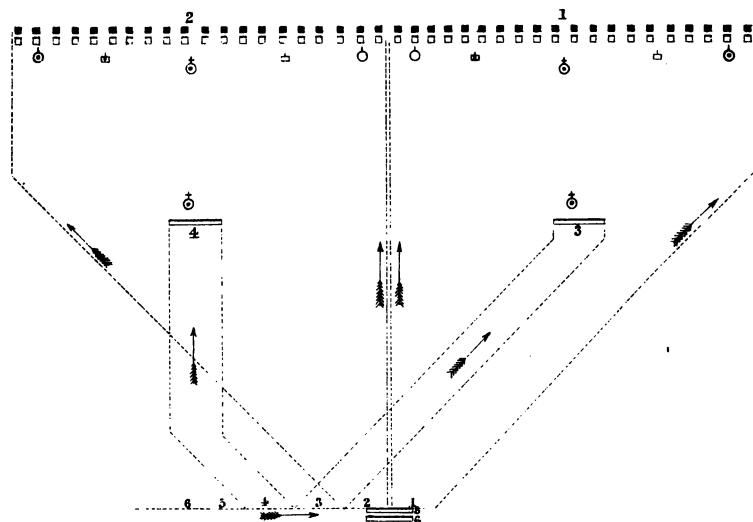
*Note to (2) and (3).* When more than a Company and a half are ordered to extend in the same direction, the Commanding Officer may, at his discretion, order the outer Companies to move out in *quick* time ; directing the Company of formation, when extended, to halt for the remainder to move up.

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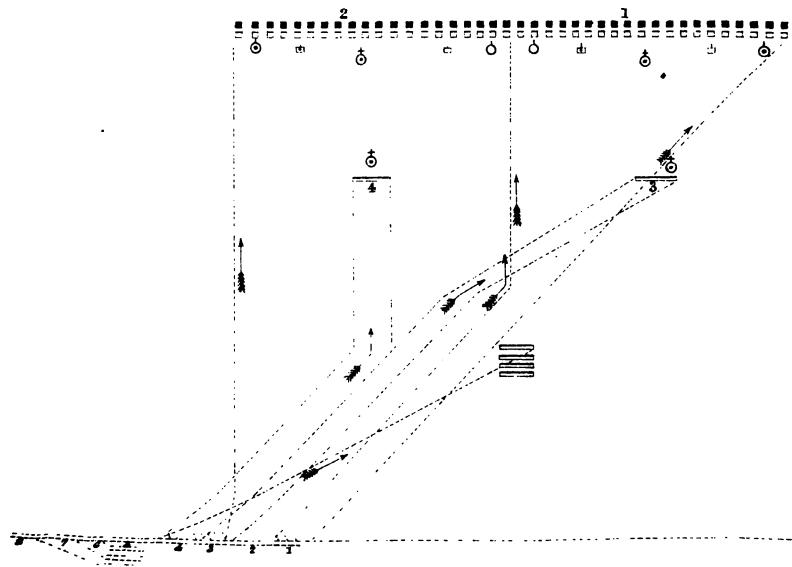
**¶ Flanking Parties.**—When a Company is ordered to protect the flank (suppose the *right*) of a Column, its Commander will give *Fours: right. Double March*: and when clear of the Column, *Front form Subdivisions*. Having gained sufficient distance to his new front, he will order the rear Subdivision to *Halt, and form Support*, and the front Subdivision to extend so as to cover the flank of the Column and to communicate with the Skirmishers. [A *left* flanking-party would form fours to the left, its Left Subdivision would extend, its Right act as support.] The Skirmishers will move in file parallel to the direction of the Column when it advances or retires; the Support, in fours. When the Column halts, both Skirmishers and Support will halt, and front (outwards); the former kneeling.



**Fig. I.**  
A BATTALION OF SIX COMPANIES EXTENDING IN SKIRMISHING ORDER FROM LINE.



**Fig. II.**  
A BATTALION (OF EIGHT COMPANIES) IN LINE EXTENDING FROM THE LEFT.



**SECTION II.—A BATTALION EXTENDING  
IN SKIRMISHING ORDER FROM LINE.**

(F. E., p. 228.)

[When a Battalion is ordered to extend from Line, the Skirmishers may be taken from either flank; the Companies next in order will form the Supports, the remainder the Reserve. A Battalion of 10 Companies may always extend 3 Companies: a Battalion of 8 or 6 Companies should not extend more than 2 Companies if a Reserve is required.]

**THE BATTALION WILL SKIRMISH. THREE COMPANIES ON THE RIGHT, FROM THE CENTRE EXTEND.** Suppose a Battalion of 10 Companies: 3 Companies on the *right* ordered to skirmish.

The following commands will be given:—

By the Captain of No. 1. (Right Skirmishers.)	By the Captain of No. 2. (Centre Skirmishers.)	By the Captain of No. 3. (Left Skirmishers.)
<i>No. 1: Double March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); as soon as the Centre Skirmishers are extended, From the Left—Extend.</i>	<i>No. 2: Quick March. From the Centre—Extend.</i>	<i>No. 3: Double March. By Sections, Left wheel. — Forward (in echelon); as soon as the Centre Skirmishers are extended, From the Right—Extend.</i>
By the Captain of No. 4. (Right Support.)	By the Captain of No. 5. (Centre Support.)	By the Captain of No. 6. (Left Support.)
<i>No. 4: Quick March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); when in rear of the centre of the Right Skirmishers, Reform Company.</i>	<i>No. 5: Quick March. By Sections, Right wheel. — Forward (in echelon); when in rear of the centre of the Centre Skirmishers, Reform Company.</i>	<i>No. 6: Quick March. [and moves in rear of the centre of the Left Skirmishers.]</i>

The remaining Companies will form the Reserve, in quarter-distance Column : moving, by fours, in rear of the centre of the formation.

[When the 3 Companies on the *left* are ordered to skirmish, the extension will be performed on the same principle: Nos. 10, 9, and 8 skirmishing; Nos. 7, 6, and 5 forming Supports.]

N.B.—The skirmishing Companies may, if necessary, be directed to extend from their *right* or *left*, or from *any named file*; the Supports and Reserve conforming, as usual, to their movements. See Plate, *Fig. 2.*

THE  
BATTALION  
WILL  
SKIRMISH.  
RIGHT (or  
LEFT) WING,  
FROM THE —  
EXTEND.

2. The Battalion may be required to send out *half its Companies* to skirmish\*. In this case, either Wing may be extended from its right, left, or centre, or from *any named file*: the Companies of the remaining Wing forming Supports as above described.

[If the Battalion, extended as above, is ordered to close in rear of the Line, the whole of the Companies will move to the rear of the Line by the shortest way, passing through the intervals between Battalions: the Skirmishers (for whom their Supports will, in this instance, *not wait*) closing as they go to the rear. When in rear of the Line, they will move towards the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, and form quarter-distance Column wherever he may direct.]

\* As when on the flank of a Brigade or Division, and ordered to cover the rest of the Line.

¶ *Skirmishers covering the movements of a Battalion.*

The *Field Exercise*,—apparently on the principle that the movements of Skirmishers, which must greatly depend on the nature of the ground and other circumstances, are best left to the judgment of their Officers,—gives no specific directions for Skirmishers thrown out to cover a Battalion in its changes of position. For purposes of Drill, however, a certain amount of detail on that point would appear desirable; and accordingly the following rules for the guidance of Officers, abridged and slightly modified from *Section 19 of Mitchell's Light Drill* (8th Edition), are here subjoined :—

1. When a Battalion in Line is ordered to *advance* covered by either of its flank Companies, the Commander of the named Company will give it the word *No. —*: *Double March*; and having advanced 20 paces, will order it to extend from its outward flank at such distances as to overlap the opposite flank of the Battalion: continuing to advance till ordered to halt.

If both the flank Companies are ordered to cover the advance, the Commander of each will move it out as above directed; but will extend from such file as will enable the Skirmishers to communicate in the centre, and cover the flanks of the Line.

[When the Battalion is ordered to *retire* covered as above, the named Company (or Companies) should be extended before the retreat in Line commences.]

2. When a Battalion in Line is ordered to *change front* covered by either of its flank Companies, the named Company, before extending, will be wheeled into the required direction.

If the Battalion changes position while covered by Skirmishers, they will (if not called in) conform to its movements, by marching in file and wheeling to the right or left as the case may be.

3. If the Battalion is ordered to *advance in Direct Echelon* from either flank, covered by the Company on that flank:—The Commander of the named Company will immediately move it out, and extend it (from its outward flank) on the march.

If the Echelon, while on the march, is wheeled to either flank, the *new leading Company* will extend (from its outward flank) on the march: the old Skirmishers turning inwards into file, and forming a flanking party; or—if called in—resuming their proper place in the Echelon.

[Should the Battalion be ordered to *form Square*, the Skirmishers, if called in, will form part of the rear face: if not called in, will form Company- or Rallying-Square.]

4. When a Battalion is (in order to pass a defile) directed to *advance in Double Column from the Centre*, covered by the two flank Subdivisions: — The two named Subdivisions will be ordered by their respective Commanders to extend in the usual way; and on arriving at the beginning of whatever impediment may form the defile, will lie down and continue firing till their respective inner Subdivisions (which will move out, run through the defile, and then extend) cloud their front. The Column having passed the defile, the 2 flank Subdivision Skirmishers will form in its rear.

If the Battalion is to *retire* in Double Column, covered as above:—The flank Subdivisions will extend from their outward flanks, as they stand: completing their extension gradually (towards the inner flank) as each Subdivision of their Wing, in its turn, faces about previous to retiring. [Another, but in some respects objectionable, method is for the flank Subdivisions to retire 15 paces, halt, and front; then extend in the usual manner, and lie down till their front is clear: the Skirmishers in rear of the 2 centre Subdivisions wheeling back so as to form a lane for the Column to retire through, and resuming their places when it has passed.] Compare *Section VIII.*, page 53.

*Note.*—In all the foregoing cases the future Skirmishers (unless *Riflemen*) will, before being moved out, be directed to order Arms, and unfix bayonets. The Skirmishers, when *recalled*, will clear the front of the Battalion as rapidly as possible; moving, by the shortest way to their place in Line. The bugle Sound for recalling Skirmishers is the **CLOSE** followed by the **RETIRE**.

### SECTION III.—RELIEVING SKIRMISHERS.

(F. E., p. 230.)

**RELIEVE SKIRMISHERS.** The directions given in *Section VIII. of PART I.* for Relieving Skirmishers, apply equally to the Skirmishers, and their respective Supports, in the Light Drill of a Battalion; except (of course) that the old Skirmishers will close on the centres of *Companies* instead of on the centres of Subdivisions.

*Note.*—The Commander of each Support, when he brings it up to the Skirmishers, must call out that he is come to *relieve* or *reinforce* them, as the case may be; in order that their Commander may know how to act.

If the Skirmishers, when relieved, find that fresh Supports have been sent out from the Reserve, they will form in rear of such fresh Supports, and then proceed to join the Reserve; moving in column of Sections, at quick time.

Fresh Companies may, at any time, be sent out from the Reserve to *relieve the Supports*. When this is the case, the Companies that are to form the new Supports will take up their position immediately in front of the old; the latter will then join the Reserve as above directed.

SECTION IV.—REINFORCING A LINE OF  
SKIRMISHERS, OR EXTENDING IT  
TO A FLANK.

(F. E., p. 232.)

**REINFORCE  
SKIRMISHERS.**

The Supports (or part of them) will be thrown forward as in Relieving Skirmishers; but on joining the line of Skirmishers, will remain, and skirmish, in it; the distances being divided.

If the Skirmishers are to be reinforced *during a retreat*, the Supports will be ordered to halt, front, and extend (from the halt). When the retiring Skirmishers reach their reinforcements, they will halt with them until again ordered to retire.

*See Note, page 43.*

**(2) †*Extending to a Flank.***

When it is required to prolong a line of Skirmishers to a flank:—The Commander of the Support nearest the named flank, if *advancing*, will move it (in echelon of Sections, at the double) clear of the Skirmishers' outer flank, and will then extend it from its inner flank: the extension being completed, he will double his men up in line with the old Skirmishers.

† As a general rule, it would be preferable, if practicable, to send out fresh Skirmishers, with Supports, from the Reserve. No Support ought ever to be extended unless another is ready to take its place.

If *retiring*, the Support will be moved (in column of Sections, at quick time) clear of the Skirmishers; and then extended (from the halt) from its inner flank: retiring with the old Skirmishers when they come up.

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When any portion of a line of Skirmishers is *called in*, they will retire in the same manner as relieved Skirmishers (*see last Section*): the remaining Skirmishers dividing the space left by those who have retired.

## SECTION V.—SKIRMISHERS CLOSING ON THEIR SUPPORTS.

(F. E., p. 234.)

### (1) *The Close.*

CLOSE ON  
SUPPORTS.

—  
CALL II.

The Skirmishers and Supports respectively will proceed as directed in *Section IX.* (1) of *PART I.*: substituting the word '*Subdivisions*' for '*Sections*'.

### (2) †*The Close and Alarm.*

CLOSE,  
LOOK OUT FOR  
CAVALRY.

—  
CALL II:  
*followed by*  
†CALL XI.

The Skirmishers and Supports respectively will proceed as explained in *Section IX.* (2) of *PART I.*: substituting the word '*Subdivisions*' for '*Sections*'.

*Note.* In this formation, the Centre and Left Squares (or, when only two Companies are skirmishing, the Left Square) should—if in line—advance into echelon.

The Reserve, when the **ALARM** sounds, will be ordered by its Commander to advance, form four-deep on the march, close on the centre, and form Square.

When the **EXTEND** sounds, the old Supports will be directed by their respective Commanders to *advance* and *extend* from the centre (or from such file as will

† If the Skirmishers are closely pressed by Cavalry, and unable to reach their Supports, (which, at Drill, may be signified by the **ALARM** being *repeated*), they will form independent Company Squares. See pp. 27, 30.

enable them to occupy the ground), thus becoming the new Skirmishers: the old Skirmishers will form Companies, and become the new Supports. If the [centre and] left Square[s] have advanced into echelon (*see Note on preceding page*): the new [centre and] right Skirmishers, as soon as extended, will be moved up in line with the new left Skirmishers; the new [centre and] right Support[s], having formed Company, will be moved up in line with the new left Support.

If necessary, the old Supports may extend *from the halt*, on their own ground: the old Skirmishers reforming Company, and retiring to their proper distances as Supports.

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\*.\* For Skirmishers moving in on their Supports when both have been formed *separately* into close Columns of Sections: *see page 52.*

SECTION VI.—SKIRMISHERS AND SUPPORTS CLOSING ON THE RESERVE.

(F. E., p. 236.)

CLOSE ON THE RESERVE.

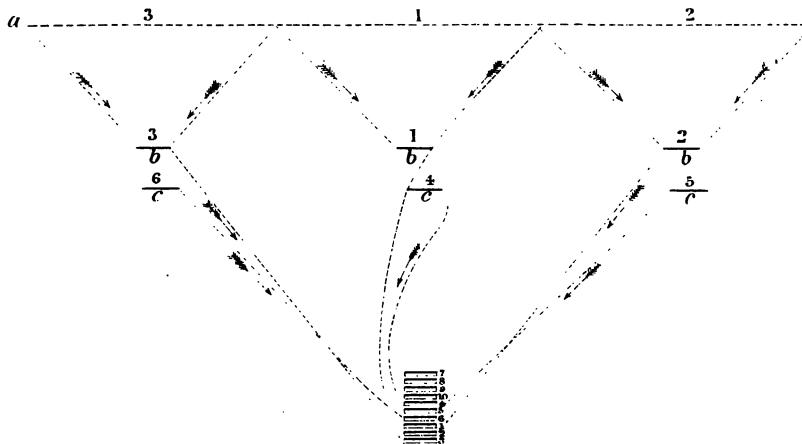
CALL II: followed by  
CALL VII. The Supports will form fours inwards; retire, in quick time, by the shortest line; and form at quarter distance in rear of the Reserve: by word of their respective Commanders. [The commands will be: for the Right Support, *Fours left. Left wheel: Quick March.—Right wheel* (into Column); and when in position, *Halt, front: dress.* †*Fix bayonets*: for the Left Support, *Fours right. Right wheel: Quick March.—Left wheel.*—*Halt, front: dress.* †*Fix bayonets*. When there are 3 Supports, the centre one will be ordered to form *Fours right*, then to wheel to the right, and will move into Column by wheeling to the *left*.\*]

The Skirmishers will rise, face to the right-about, and retire in quick time; each Company closing on its centre (at the double, as usual) as it goes to the rear. As soon as each Company is closed, its Commander will place himself on its inward flank; lead on to, and retire to quarter-distance beyond, the flank of the rear Company of the Reserve; and will then give *Fours right* (or *left*\*).—*Halt, front: dress.* †*Fix bayonets*.

\* When three Companies are skirmishing, the centre Support and Skirmishers will, in moving into Column, pass round the *left* of the Reserve.

† The men, after fixing bayonets, will remain with ordered Arms, at Attention.

SKIRMISHERS AND SUPPORTS (OF A BATTALION OF 10 COMPANIES)  
CLOSING, INDEPENDENTLY, ON THE RESERVE.



- a. a. Original position of Skirmishers.
- b. b. Skirmishers after closing on their centres.
- c. c. Supports, before forming fours.



N.B. The Companies will take their places in rear of the Reserve, as they arrive, without reference to their numbers: if two Companies from the opposite flanks *meet*, they will pass each other, according to the general rule, left arm to left arm. In the presence of Cavalry, Supports should always be allowed to wait for their Skirmishers before moving into the Reserve.

(2) *Together: when closed as in Sec. V. (1).*

When the Skirmishers have closed in rear of their respective Supports, and both are required to close on the Reserve, each Support will move with its Skirmishers into the Reserve precisely as directed in (1) for the *Supports*. The necessary commands will be given by the senior Captain of the two Companies, except the words "*Halt, front: dress. Fix bayonets,*" which each Company will receive from its own Commander.

N.B. Should four Companies coming from opposite flanks *meet*, the two from the right will form in front of those from the left.

The Reserve, when the Skirmishers and Supports are approaching, will stand at Attention, with ordered Arms and fixed bayonets: or, in the presence of Cavalry (when the Supports wait for their Skirmishers), will *advance*, inclining to the right.

[For a *Battalion* covering the front of a Line, with half its Companies skirmishing, and the other half in support, *closing in rear of the Line: see page 40.*]

## SECTION VII.—THE ALARM, OR LOOK OUT FOR CAVALRY.

(F. E., p. 232.)

[When Skirmishers *unexpectedly* attacked by Cavalry, are unable to reach their Supports.]

**LOOK OUT FOR CAVALRY.**      The Skirmishers will immediately (without any word from their Commanders) run into close Columns of Sections; and will then be ordered to prepare for Cavalry. [Commanders' words: *Prepare for Cavalry: Ready.*]

**CALL XI.**

† If the Skirmishers are in disorder or scattered, they will—instead of forming close Column of Sections—form Rallying Squares: *see page 31.* This will be signified, at Drill, by the double being sounded after the **ALARM**.

The Supports will form close Columns of Sections, and advance: by command of their respective Captains.

See *Note*, p. 52.

The Reserve will advance; the Companies forming four-deep on the march, and closing on their centre: by word of the Commanding Officer.

**CALL V.**      On the Sound **COMMENCE FIRING**, signifying the approach of the Cavalry:—

The Commanders of the Skirmishers will give the firing words: *see page 67.*

The Commanders of the Supports will give **Halt.** *Prepare for Cavalry: Ready:* and the firing words.



FORMATION OF A BATTALION OF 10 COMPANIES (Fig. 1.),  
AND 6 COMPANIES (Fig. 2.), AFTER THE ALARM HAS BEEN SOUNDED.

Fig. 1.

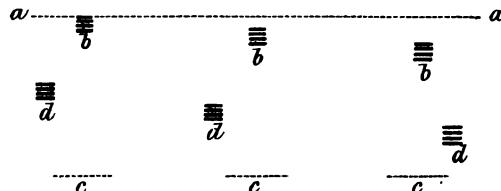
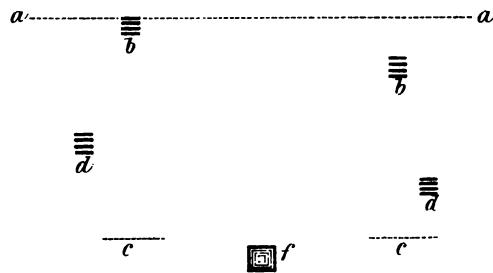


Fig. 2.



a. a. Original position of Skirmishers.	b. b. Skirmishers' Columns placed in echelon.
c. c. ditto of Supports.	d. d. Supports' ditto.
e. ditto of Reserve.	f. Reserve, having formed Square.

The Reserve, if consisting of 4 Companies, will get the word *On the leading Company: Form Square.* *Subdivisions, outwards:* if consisting of 2 Companies, *Halt.* *No* — [the rear Company]: *Right-about face:* from the Commanding Officer. In the former case, the leading and rear Companies of the Column will (as usual) respectively be ordered to ‘*Halt*’ and to ‘*Halt. Right-about face*’ by their Captains: in the latter, when the rear Company has faced about, the flanks of both Companies will be dressed back till they meet, forming an oval: in both cases, the Square, when formed, will be ordered (by the Commanding Officer) to *Prepare for Cavalry.*

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The following rules will be observed by the Captains of the Skirmishers and Supports respectively, in moving their Squares—should they happen to be formed exactly in line, or one behind another—into *echelon*, so as to protect each other mutually by their fire :—

1. The Skirmishers’ Squares will look only to each other: and if in line, the [centre and] right Square[s] will retire into echelon, the *left* standing fast.
2. The Supports will move into echelon not only with each other but also with the Skirmishers’ Squares. As regards their relative position with each other, the [centre and] left Support[s] should advance into echelon, either by moving on after the right has halted, or by moving to the front at the double: as regards their position with respect to the Skirmishers’ Squares, the right and left Supports will take ground outwards, the centre Support (if any) to the left.

The Reserve, if 3 Companies are skirmishing, will incline to the right : if 2 Companies, will move straight to its front.

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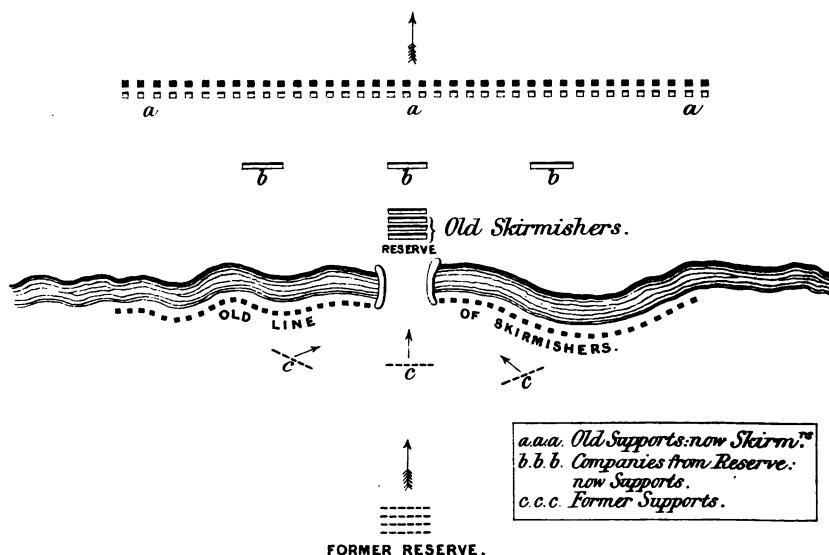
When the **EXTEND** sounds, the Skirmishers will extend (from the files on which they closed) : by word of their Captains. The Supports (after re-forming Companies), and the Reserve (after re-forming Column), will fall back to their former places : or, if the Skirmishers are about to advance, may lie down till at a sufficient distance from the front.

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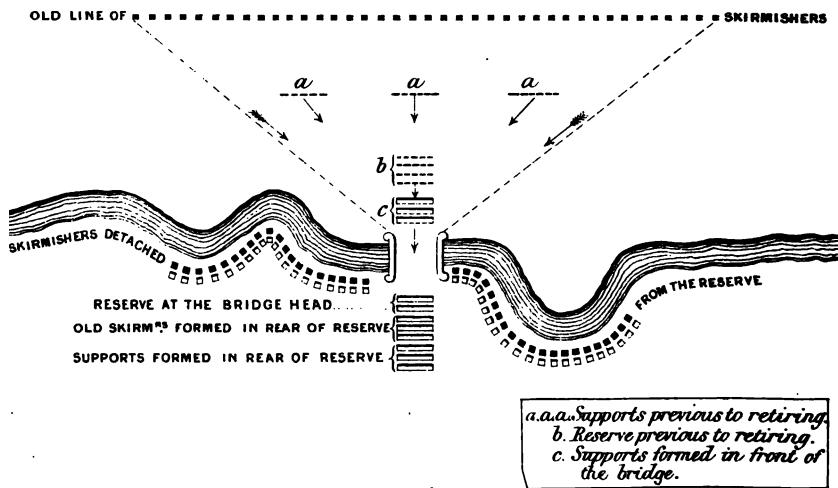
**Note.** When the Skirmishers and Supports have been formed separately into close Columns of Sections, as above described, and there is time for the former to move in on the latter, the word **ON THE SUPPORTS CLOSE** (or Sound II.) will be given. The Supports will then be ordered to *advance*, and the Skirmishers' Columns to *retire*; the latter forming on whichever flank of the former happens to be nearest to them. Each two Companies will then (at the senior Officer's word *Form Square: Outwards face.*) face outwards and form one Square.



(1) A BATTALION IN EXTENDED ORDER ADVANCING ACROSS A BRIDGE  
IN CONTACT WITH AN ENEMY.



(2) A BATTALION IN EXTENDED ORDER RETIRING ACROSS A BRIDGE  
IN CONTACT WITH AN ENEMY.



SECTION VIII.—PASSING A BRIDGE, OR  
SHORT DEFILE, IN CONTACT WITH  
AN ENEMY.

(F. E., p. 238.)

(a) *Advancing.*

1. The Skirmishers, on reaching the bank of the river (or the beginning of whatever other impediment may form the defile), will—when the flanks cannot be gained—lie down, cover themselves, and keep up their fire till clouded, in succession, by the new line of Skirmishers (see 2). They will then, by word of their respective Commanders, close to their inner flanks; and, having passed over the bridge (or through the defile), will assemble in rear of the Reserve.

2. As the Supports approach the bridge (or defile), they will close in rear of the one that happens to be opposite to it; and, thus formed in close \*Column and supported by the Reserve, will charge and force the passage with the bayonet. The Supports and Reserve having both passed the bridge (or defile), the former will gradually extend from their centre, and take up the fire.

3. The Reserve, having assisted the Supports to force the bridge (or defile), will hold possession of it till the latter have completed their extension as above directed. It will then send out fresh Supports; the old Skirmishers forming, as already stated, in its rear.

\* Whether the Column is one of Companies or Subdivisions, will necessarily depend on the breadth of the bridge (or defile).

The whole will then move forward according to the original formation.

(b) *Retiring.*

1. The Reserve will first pass the bridge (or defile); take post at the bridge-head (or outlet of the defile); and immediately detach parties to both flanks to line the bank of the river (or edge of the defile), in extended order. These new Skirmishers will commence firing as soon as their front is clear.

2. The Supports will close, as in (a), in the proper rear of the one which is opposite the bridge; and will there halt, in compact order and facing to their proper front, till the old line of Skirmishers is withdrawn. The column will then face about, cross the bridge, and form in the proper rear of the Reserve.

3. The (old) Skirmishers, when still at some distance from the bridge, will begin inclining (inwards) towards it; keeping up the fire, as usual. On approaching the bridge, they will run briskly over it—those in the centre being the last to cross—and will form in the proper rear of the Reserve.

If the retreat is to be continued, Supports for the new Skirmishers will be thrown out from the Column when it has retired to the proper distance. The remainder (forming the new Reserve) having gained their proper distance from the new Supports, the whole will retire according to their original formation.

## A P P E N D I X.

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### (1) ADVANCED AND REAR GUARDS.

#### (a) Advanced Guards.

Advanced Guards are formed in front of a Column, or of the Columns of an army, for the purpose of feeling the way through a country : to cover and conceal the movements of the main body ; to gain intelligence of the enemy's situation, watch his movements, and give such timely notice of his vicinity or approach as will enable the main body to prepare either for attack or defence. The strength and composition of Advanced Guards will necessarily depend on a variety of circumstances appreciable only on the spot.

An Advanced Guard on a *plain* is simply a line of Skirmishers with Supports, and—if far distant from the main body—with a Reserve.

When a Column is marching along a *road*, the Advanced Guard will consist of one or more Companies divided into 4 equal parts or \*sections, of which the two

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\* If the Advanced Guard consists of one Company, each of these parts will be a *Section* ; if of 2 Companies, a *Subdivision* ; if of 4 Companies, a *Company*. In the first case, the Captain will take command of the 2 rear Sections, the Ensign of the next, the Lieutenant of the leading Section, of the Company :—in the second case, the Captain of the leading Company will command its advanced, the Lieutenant its rear, Subdivision ; the rear

rear will form the Reserve in \*front of the Column; the 2nd from the front will form a Support 240 paces in front of the Reserve; the leading one will be 120 paces in front of the 2nd, detaching a Corporal and two files 120 paces to its front, and two files 120 paces (diagonally) to each of its flanks.

When the Guard is to consist of *one* Company,—which, unless otherwise directed, will be the leading one of the Column,—the Company will be drawn up, by its Captain, in column of Sections in front of the Column [*Right (or Left) Section to the front. Remaining Sections: On the move, right (or left) wheel, &c.*] before he proceeds to march off the different parties, which he will do as follows:—

1. † *Nos. 1 and 2 files from the right of No. 1 Section, with a Corporal: advanced Party.—Advance.*

(Interval of 60 paces.)

2. † *Nos. 3 and 4 files: Right flanking Party.* } *Advance.*  
† *Nos. 5 and 6 files: Left flanking Party.* } *Advance.*

(Interval of 60 paces.)

3. *Remainder of 1st Section.—Advance.*

(Interval of 60 paces.)

4. *Right file of No. 2 Section: connecting file.—Advance.*

Company (Reserve) being commanded by its Captain:—in the third case, each of the 4 Companies will, of course, be under the command of its Captain.

\* The distance between the Reserve and the head of the Column will be regulated by circumstances: it will usually be 600 paces by day, 350 by night.

† A weak Company may send on only one file and a Corporal in front, and one file on each flank.

An Advanced Guard.

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Corporal  $\square \square \square$  files of 1<sup>st</sup> Sec.

file of 1<sup>st</sup> Sec.  $\{ 5 \square \square \quad 720 \text{ paces} \quad 120 \text{ paces} \quad 3 \square \square \}$  files of 1<sup>st</sup> Sec.

Rem<sup>r</sup> of  $\square \square \square$  1<sup>st</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 1.

Right file of  $\square \square \square$  2<sup>nd</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 1.

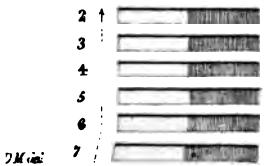
Rem<sup>r</sup> of  $\square \square \square$  2<sup>nd</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 1.

Right file of  $\square \square \square$  3<sup>rd</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 1.

Rem<sup>r</sup> of  $\square \square \square$  3<sup>rd</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 1.  
4<sup>th</sup> Sec. minus its left file.

Left file of  $\square \square \square$  4<sup>th</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 1.

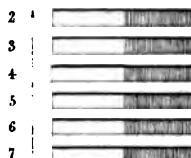
Right file  $\square \square \square$  of N<sup>o</sup> 2. Comp<sup>y</sup>.



Column  
Right in front

A Rear Guard.

P. 56.



Column  
Right in front

Left file of  $\square \square \square$  N<sup>o</sup> 7. Comp<sup>y</sup>

Right file of  $\square \square \square$  1<sup>st</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 8.

Rem<sup>r</sup> of  $\square \square \square$  1<sup>st</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 8.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sec. of  $\square \square \square$  N<sup>o</sup> 8 minus 1 file

Left file of  $\square \square \square$  2<sup>nd</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 8.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 8 minus 1 file

Left file of  $\square \square \square$  3<sup>rd</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 8.

4<sup>th</sup> Sec.  $\square \square \square$  minus 6 files

120 paces  $\square \square \square$  3 times  
2 files from left of 4<sup>th</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 8 Comp<sup>y</sup>

120 paces  $\square \square \square$  3 times  
2 files from left of 4<sup>th</sup> Sec. of N<sup>o</sup> 8 Comp<sup>y</sup>

Column  
Right in front



(Interval of 60 paces.)

*5. Remainder of 2nd Section: Support.—Advance.*

(Interval of 120 paces.)

*6. Right file of No. 3 Section: connecting file.—Advance.*

(Interval of 120 paces.)

*7. Stand fast the Left file of No. 4 Section. Nos. 3 and 4 Sections, Reserve:—Advance.*

N.B.—If the Column is Left in front, the leading Company will form Column of Sections Left in front; the formation of the Advanced Guard commencing from the left of the leading Section.

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It is impossible to give specific rules for the conduct of an Advanced Guard in all the various circumstances in which it may be placed: the following instructions will provide for the cases of most frequent occurrence:—

1. *On approaching a Defile or Hollow-way.*—The advanced double file will halt till the flanking parties have occupied the heights on either side: it will then, if no enemy is signalled, divide; one file and the Corporal moving on, the other file following midway between them and the leading Section†. The other parties, in succession, will follow: each keeping the preceding one in view; files being detached if necessary. The flanking files on the

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† *Signals.*—One man of the leading file holding up his cap on the muzzle of his rifle, will signify that a small body of the enemy is in sight; both men so holding up their caps, that he is near in force: a rifle held up horizontally will mean that no enemy is in sight.

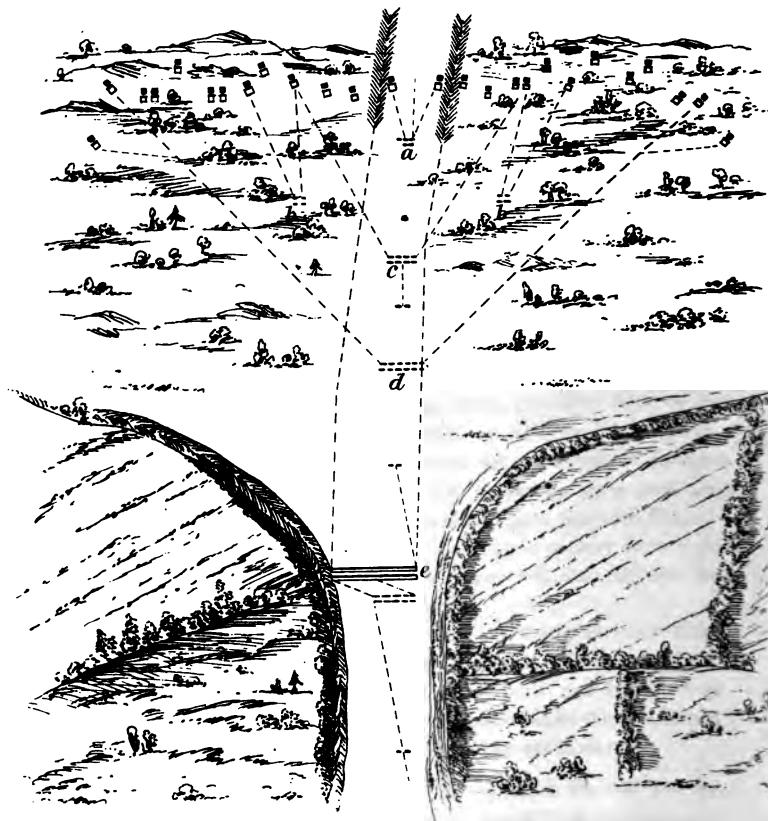
† It should be recollect that this word may signify either a Section, Subdivision, or Company.

heights will continue in advance of the Corporal's advanced file till the defile is passed ; when they will gradually fall back to their former places. The whole Guard will then move forward in its original formation.

2. *On approaching a Hill.*—The advanced double file will halt while the flanking parties move cautiously, in opposite directions, round the base : one file will then ascend the hill (creeping up, when near the top, so as not to shew itself), and—having made its observations from behind the brow of the hill—will signal the presence or absence of the enemy. *All* heights (such as a church-tower, mound, &c.) commanding a view of the surrounding country, should be ascended by the advanced files or patrols.
3. *On approaching a Village, Wood, &c.*—The Reserve and advanced parties will halt, out of range of musketry ; while strong flanking parties are sent round the outskirts to threaten the rear. The Corporal's party may then move on in single files at considerable intervals, followed by as many files from the Support as may seem expedient. If no enemy is discovered, the Supports and Reserve will move forward.  
It is a general rule that the flanks of every object capable of affording cover should be turned, and its rear threatened, before it is felt in front ; and that all bogs, &c. should be carefully examined before they are passed ; lest a concealed enemy should be left in rear.
4. *Passing a Bridge.*—The leading double file will first pass over : the flanking files, on approaching the bridge, will incline inwards, cross over it, and then turn outwards into their former positions. The leading Section, on reaching the bridge, will halt,—sending forward a file to communicate with the advanced party,—till the Support comes up, when it will move on. The Support will, in like manner, hold the bridge till the arrival of the Reserve ; the Reserve, till the arrival of the main body.



AN ADVANCED GUARD COMING OUT ON A PLAIN  
AND EXTENDING.



<i>a. Advanced party. b. Flanking files. c. Advanced Section. d. Support. e. Reserve.</i>	<i>before extending?</i>
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5. *Conduct in case of Attack.*—If the front of the Advanced Guard is attacked, the leading files will immediately fall back on the advanced Section which will extend, reinforced by the Support. The commanding Officer of the Guard will then either order the Reserve to move up and reinforce the Support, or the latter to fall back on the former, as he may judge best: his great object being to give the Column time to prepare for the enemy, without unnecessarily exposing his own men. If the Guard is attacked *on a flank*, the Sections—before extending—will wheel up to the flank attacked, as circumstances may require.

N.B. No Advanced Guard or detached party of any kind, after dislodging the enemy from a position, should ever be allowed to advance until perfectly re-formed; nor, when re-formed, without orders from the rear.

¶ *Patroles.*—A Patrole (which may consist of a Subaltern party, a Serjeant and 12, or a Corporal and 6, according to circumstances) is a party detached from an Advanced Guard to examine all houses, enclosures, &c. too distant to be inspected by the advanced party or flanking files. The precautionary instructions above given for advanced files apply equally to Patroles. A Patrole should always, if possible, avoid committing itself in action.

[*An Advanced Guard breaking into Skirmishing order.*—When the leading files of an Advanced Guard on a road come out on a *plain*, they will halt and lie down: the flanking files moving up and lying down with them at their usual distances of 100 yards. The remainder of the leading Section, as it comes up, will extend from its centre: the 2nd Section will also extend from its centre and reinforce the leading Section. The Skirmishers thus formed will advance, correcting their distances from the centre on the march: the Reserve

will form Subdivision (or Company), and act as a support to the Skirmishers.

An Advanced Guard, thus extended, may resume its original formation by the leading files moving on, and the remainder halting till they have gained their proper distances and then following on in succession ; the remainder of the 1st and 2nd Sections closing on their centres.]

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*(b) Rear Guards.*

The object of a Rear Guard is to cover a retreating Column from any sudden attack in flank or rear ; and also to prevent straggling. The Guard will be formed in precisely the same manner as an Advanced Guard, only facing to the rear : it will therefore, when moving, be rear rank in front ; and when halted and fronted, will be facing to the proper rear.

On a *plain*, a Rear—like an Advanced—Guard will be simply a line of Skirmishers (with Supports and, if necessary, a Reserve) extended previous to the retreat.

On a *road*, the Company (or Companies) of which the Rear Guard is to consist having been countermarched, the different parties will be marched off as in (a) : if the main body is right in front the Rear Guard will be left in front, and *vice versa*. If no enemy is near, and the Column is *on the march*, the Guard may be formed by the several parties—instead of moving off, after countermarching, to their proper distances—facing about in succession, and marching off in rear of the Column as it gains the proper distances from them.

The object of a Rear Guard being to secure the retreat from interruption, its resistance should usually cease when that point is gained: but in the event of a close pursuit, every copse, hedge-row, or defile should be obstinately defended. In the latter case it will be desirable for the main body to halt a detachment at any bridge or defile it may have passed, to give the Rear Guard such support as it may require.

While the Rear Guard is disputing any point, the *flanking parties* must be on the alert to frustrate any attempt by the enemy to turn its flanks.

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Every Advanced and Rear Guard should be adequately provided with axes and intrenching tools.

*See Field Ex., pp. 239—246.*

## (2) PIQUETS AND THEIR SENTRYES.

All armies, or smaller bodies of troops, in camp or bivouac, should be protected by Piquets, which are of two descriptions—*Outlying* and *Inlying*.

The Inlying Piquet usually remains in camp, accoutred, ready to turn out at a moment's warning; having sentries advantageously posted for observing any alarm in front; and communicating (when necessary), by patroles, with the advanced posts.

The Outlying Piquet is thrown forward a considerable distance in front of the camp, posted with a complete chain of *double* sentries in front (on the same principle that light troops are extended to cover a Line): when near the main body, supports only will be necessary in rear of the line of sentries; when distant, a reserve will also be required. The principal duties of an Outlying Piquet are to secure the safety and repose of the camp; to prevent *reconnaissances* by the enemy, and, by patrolling and careful observation, to gain intelligence of his movements and ascertain his intentions. Each Company when on piquet duty will be divided into 3 Reliefs, one of which will be extended on sentry, the other two remaining in support: if the chain of sentries be so far extended that they cannot all be conveniently relieved from the piquet in support, one or two small parties (forming intermediate supports to the chain) may be detached to convenient situations for the purpose of furnishing the sentries.

*Piquet Sentries* by day, should be placed on heights,

and need only be sufficiently numerous for each to see the files on either hand, and the intermediate country: by night, should be increased in number, and placed lower down so as to see any approaching party against the sky without being themselves discovered; one man of each file remaining on his post looking out vigilantly to the front, while the other patroles as far as the next sentry on the right, or occasionally 20 or 30 yards to his front. The line should not be too much extended, nor the men posted near any copse or cover: the flanks should be thrown slightly back, and, if necessary, protected by detached parties. If there is any commanding position which cannot be taken within the chain of sentries, a party (properly supported) must be sent to occupy it during the day. When sentries hear people approaching them by night, they will challenge them, order them to halt, and allow only one to advance until the answers are satisfactory: by day, they will never permit more than one stranger at a time to approach their post; a flag of truce will be halted (at such distance that it cannot overlook the piquet-posts) by one sentry, while the other communicates with the Officer commanding the Piquet.

A fire (when permitted to a Piquet) must be as much as possible concealed from observation: and the alarm-post of the Piquet be fixed in rear of it.

Communication should be kept up by *single* sentries between the front line of sentries and the supports; also between the supports and the reserve.

*Officers* going out on piquet duty should examine all the country over which they pass, and select favourable

positions for disputing the ground in case of being driven in : bearing in mind that in such an event it will be all-important to gain time for the main body to prepare for action.

When an Officer in charge of a Company sent on piquet arrives at his post, he will, before throwing out his chain of sentries, secure his party from surprise, by placing sentries on its flanks and in front, detaching a look-out file to a commanding spot, and personally examining (accompanied by a patrol) the neighbourhood of the post. An Officer, more especially when intrusted with the defence of a bridge or ford, should if possible strengthen his post by constructing *abattis*, breastworks, &c. : he ought not however, without leave, to block up a main road except with materials easily removeable.

Advanced Piquets will get under arms an hour before daylight: the Officer, as soon as it is light enough, will proceed to occupy the same posts he held the day before ; previously sending forward patroles to feel the way, and at once reporting to the Field-officer of the day any change in the enemy's position. Advanced Piquets should be relieved about day-break.

The Officer arriving in command of a new Piquet, will accompany the Commander of the old Piquet along the chain of posts, in order to obtain from him all necessary information about the enemy's situation, strength, &c. The Officer who has been relieved will forward a written report to the Field-officer of the day, fall back on the reserve piquet, and march to camp in the same order as when he advanced : if, however, the advanced Piquets should be attacked before he arrives in camp, he will instantly return to their support.

When near the enemy, a *Patrole* should be sent out once between every relief during the night. The Patrole, on leaving the Piquet, should first communicate with the next post on the right (or left); patrole, cautiously and silently, along the whole front of the line of sentries, just near enough to see them; and, communicating with the next post on the left (or right), return to the Piquet by the rear of the chain.

When the enemy's posts are *distant*, Patroles preceded by intelligent men to feel the way, will be sent along the roads towards them as far as may be expedient. In the event of falling in with an enemy's Patrole in advance of the line of sentries, it will be prudent to retire at once without exchanging shots: should any sounds indicate the approach of a *larger* body, intelligence should immediately be sent to the Officer of the Piquet; and the Patrole will retire steadily, and (if possible) unobserved, upon the Piquet: in the latter case, if the Patrole is perceived and overtaken by the enemy, an incessant fire must be kept up to warn the camp that he is coming on in force.

A strong Patrole, which must proceed with redoubled caution, will always be sent some distance on towards the enemy's posts just before daylight.

A Patrole must above all things avoid giving a false alarm.

When Piquets are attacked, the same rule should be observed as in all other skirmishing; the detached Officers' parties will not run in on the main body but will support the skirmishers: When compelled to retire, they should, if possible, retreat on the flank of

the main body, and thereby afford mutual support to each other. When a sentry is satisfied that the enemy is moving on to the attack, he should fire at once, although the enemy may be far out of range.

A Piquet ought not to shut itself up in a house or an enclosure, with the intention of defending itself to the last extremity, unless particularly ordered to do so, or in the expectation of immediate support. A Piquet may, with safety, defend its front as long as its flanks are not attacked; but must retire when the enemy attempts to surround the post.

Outlying Piquets pay no compliments: but when approached by a General Officer, the Field-officer of the day, or by any armed party, fall in and stand to their arms. Sentries on out-post duty pay no compliments.

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Piquets in the field may be taken by Brigades; the different Regiments furnishing one or more Companies, as may be required; a Field-officer of the day being in charge of the whole. Or, an entire Regiment may be employed on piquet duty under its own Officers.

*See Field Ex., pp. 247—255.*

## (3) A SQUARE RECEIVING CAVALRY.

*Prepare for Cavalry* { The 2nd and 4th ranks take  
a pace of 9 inches to the front.

*Ready . . . . .*

The 2 front ranks sink down on the right knee, as a front and rear rank kneeling ; and place the butts of the rifles on the ground, against the inside of that knee—locks uppermost, and muzzles slanting upwards ; the left hand grasps the rifle just above the lowest band, the right holds the small of the butt ; the left arm rests on the thigh, 6 inches in rear of the left knee. The 3rd and 4th ranks make ready as a front and rear rank standing ; muzzles of the rifles inclined upwards.

† *Commence Firing  
from the — of Faces*

The standing ranks commence File-firing, thus ;—The files fire in succession, front- and rear-rank men alternately, from the named flank, for the 1st round ; each file then loads and fires independently.

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† This word, at p. 178 of the *Field Ex.*, is given thus :—  
*File-firing from the — of Faces. Commence Firing.*

*Cease Firing] . . . .*      { Each file completes its loading and shoulders ; those that are at the 'Ready' first half-cocking their rifles.

*Kneeling ranks*

[*of the — face*] :

*Fire a Volley.*

*At — yards : Ready.*

*Present . . . . .*

*Load . . . . .*

The kneeling ranks come to the capping position, bringing the weight of the body on the right heel ; adjust the sights ; full cock ; and fix the eye steadfastly on an object in front.

After firing, the rifles are again brought down to receive Cavalry.

The kneeling ranks spring to Attention at the half face, and bring the rifle to an horizontal position at the right side, seizing it with the right hand close in front of the left ; then come to the 'Prepare to load' position as standing ranks, and go on with the loading in Quick time.

N.B.—When the sides of the Square are less than four-deep, the front rank, only, will kneel.

